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The Washington Department of Game's Habitat Management Areas

RUTH LEPANE



AMERICAN GOLDFINCH

The Washington Department of Game's Habitat Management Areas, known as HMAs, offer a wide and wonderful variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. Over 770,000 acres of land and water are managed by the HMA program in every area of our state, and most of it is open to the public year-round for a one-time charge of \$8 for an annual conservation license. This conservation license, included free to holders of hunting and fishing licenses, also admits youth groups, guests, spouse and family members under 18 years of age, accompanied by the license holder.

Of course, the primary purpose of our HMAs is to preserve habitat—a home—for our fish and wildlife. It is an increasingly vital responsibility as our population expands and as agricultural and industrial projects whittle away at our undeveloped land. HMA management is also focused on the varied needs of outdoor recreationists attracted by wildlife.

The accompanying map and descriptions will guide you in your search for wild places in our state. Regulations pertaining to each area, such as road and camping facilities, may be obtained at the Game Department regional office which services each particular Habitat Management Area. Enjoy!

Descriptions and Locations

1. ASOTIN CREEK (9,296 acres) is 13 miles southwest of the town of Asotin and includes important winter range for elk and outstanding chukar habitat. Trout fishing in Asotin Creek is best during early summer.

2. BANKS LAKE (44,662 acres) is located between Coulee City and Electric City and is noted for its waterfowl and upland birds.

Banks Lake itself is one of the finest fishing waters in eastern Washington. Rainbow trout, kokanee, large-mouthed bass, perch, burbot, and wall-eyed pike provide exceptional variety for anglers.

3. CHELAN BUTTE (9,424 acres) has one of the highest chukar and valley quail populations in north central Washington. It lies off Highway 97, between the towns of Lakeside and Chelan, and borders the Columbia River.

Chelan Butte's flat ridges, deep canyons, and steep grassy slopes typify the geography of the Columbia River breaks.

4. CHIEF JOSEPH (9,176 acres) is located 30 miles south of Asotin along the Snake River. It is a popular spot for upland bird and big game hunting, but over 90 species of nongame birds have also been identified on this land. Sport fishing for smallmouth bass, trout and steelhead is also an attraction.

5. The COLOCKUM (92,108 acres) is one of eastern Washington's most important elk wintering areas. It is located west of the Columbia River, south and east of Colockum Pass Road, and north of State Highway 10.

The Colockum is famous for Rocky Mountain elk, and also has mule deer, bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, chukar, valley quail, Rio Grande turkey, ruffed grouse, sage hen, pheasant and dove.

Grain fields, flats, and protected bays along the Columbia are excellent waterfowl habitat.

Rolling sagebrush hills drop off to steep cliffs along the Columbia where Indian artifacts and petrified wood may be found.

6. CRAB CREEK (20,333 acres) and its nearby unit, Priest Rapids, include some of the finest waterfowl habitat and trout-producing waters in the state and pheasant and chukar occur in abundance. The creek flowing through the property, from which it gets its name, is one of the finest brown trout streams in Washington.

Crab Creek, located about seven miles directly east of the town of Beverly, is typical eastern Washington desert country with sagebrush, rolling hills, and cattail marshes.

7. DESERT (27,719 acres) is in an area west of Moses Lake near Interstate 90 and Dodson Road, noted primarily for waterfowl concentrations. Dunes and sagebrush flats offer a multitude of recreation opportunities.

8. ENTIAT (9,675 acres) lies on the east side of the Columbia River, just upstream from Wenatchee. Steep, western yellow pine forests give way to grassland and basalt benches in this vital wintering area for mule deer. Quail and chukar are found in abundance. Reached from US Highway 97 or more primitive forest roads in the higher elevations.

9. GLOYD SEEPS (10,111 acres)

is located just north of the town of Moses Lake, on the Stratford Road, and is managed for waterfowl and pheasant hunting.

The upper portion of Crab Creek flows through this wildlife area which consists of brushy scablands that slope from irrigated farmlands to the creek bottom. There are also shallow water areas of saltgrass flats and cattail patches.

Golden eagles nest here and white pelicans utilize the area as a spring resting area.

10. GROUSE FLATS (640 acres) lies on a bench six miles south of Mt. Misery. It contains most animals found on the W.T. Wooten and provides vital calving grounds for elk.

11. JOHN'S RIVER (1,528 acres) is located 12 miles southwest of Aberdeen, on the Westport highway. Waterfowl and upland bird hunting are primary recreational attractions. Salmon and steelhead fishermen also take advantage of excellent launching facilities here.

The dominant feature is John's River with its associated estuarine system. From an island at the mouth to four miles upstream, this wildlife area varies from tideland mud, through grass, brush, and spruce bottoms to hillsides covered with jungle-like second growth of alder and fir.

12. KLICKITAT (11,848 acres) lies along the Klickitat River breaks, off the main county road between Glenwood and Goldendale.

It is known for blacktail deer, Merriam's turkey, chukar, black bear, bighorn sheep, valley quail, bandtail pigeon and dove. Bald and golden eagle, prairie falcon, kingbird, mountain bluebird, alligator lizard and marmot are a few of the



Badger

more than 100 non-hunted animal species living there. Steelhead fishing is outstanding; the Klickitat River ranks as a top summer-run stream.

13. LAKE TERRELL (1,320 acres), located in Whatcom county just north of Ferndale, features an interpretive center. It is one of the first migration stops for ducks heading south from northern British Columbia breeding grounds.

All duck species found in western Washington occur here, either as residents, such as mallards, or as brief fall visitors, such as the canvasback. Plants of cock pheasants help supplement wild populations.

Catfish are the primary fish species, but large cutthroat also may be caught in Lake Terrell.

14. LECLERC CREEK (893 acres) is located along shores of the Pend Oreille River in the extreme northeast corner of Washington. It will be an important nucleus for future acquisition of vital wildlife lands in the Pend Oreille River Valley. Mule deer, black bear and ruffed grouse are primary game species,

but good trout and spinyray fishing may be enjoyed in nearby waters.

15. LENORE LAKE (8,941 acres) is managed primarily for waterfowl. It lies adjacent to Highway 17, about five miles north of Soap Lake. The high, basalt scabrock cliffs which ring the area are typical of coulee-type geologic formations which developed during the ice age.

16. LITTLE PEND OREILLE (41,555 acres) is 13 miles east of Colville. About 80 percent of this mountainous yellow pine forest is managed to benefit its whitetail deer and excellent hunting opportunities.

Little Pend Oreille includes habitat for other wildlife; black bear, mink, forest grouse, bald and golden eagle, and many song and water birds. Active beaver colonies can be seen from roads; muskrat live in Bayley and McDowell Lakes.

Little Pend Oreille's network of nearly 200 miles of roads and trails, seven established campgrounds, 62 miles of trout streams and two lakes furnish a variety of year-round recreation.

17. The McNARY (9,496 acres),

known for its excellent waterfowl population, is located near the town of Burbank. It lies along US Highway 12-395, between the Snake and Walla Walla Rivers. A separate segment is two miles upstream from the mouth of Yakima River.

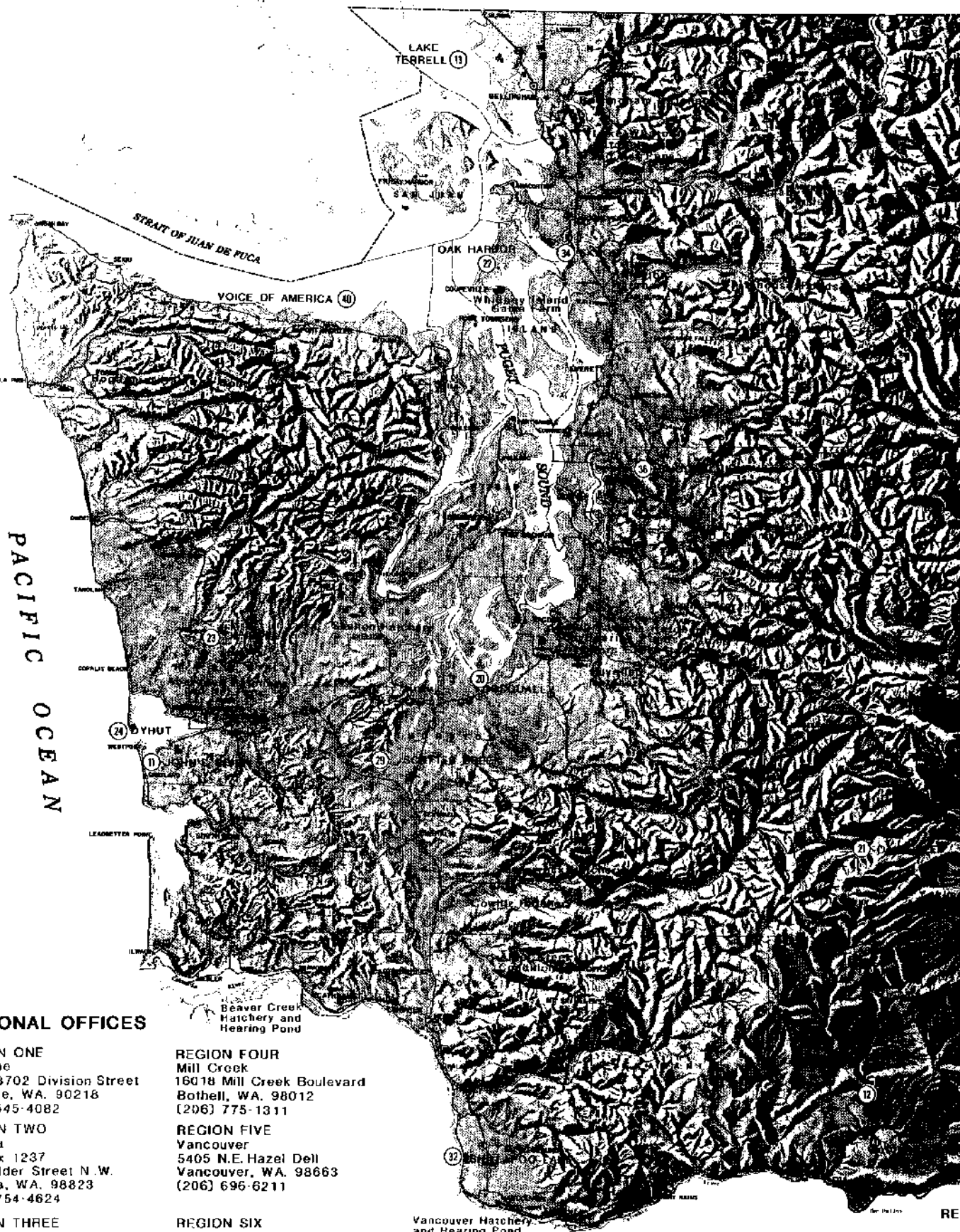
Hunting for ducks and Canada geese is this area's prime fall and winter attraction. There is, however, a wide variety of other wildlife which may be observed year-round.

18. METHOW (20,437 acres) lies near the town of Twisp and provides key winter range for North Central Washington's mule deer herds. Numerous roads lead into the Methow from State Highway 153 and at higher elevations, adjacent National Forest lands. The Methow includes the Big Buck and Chilwist Units.

Methow lands are open sage and bitterbrush at lower elevations, and semi-open yellow pine forests in the high country. Trout fishing is good on the area's several small lakes and ponds. Game species include Merriam's turkey, ruffed and blue grouse, spruce grouse, valley quail, cougar, bear, and mallard.

19. L.T.MURRAY (106,119 acres) is composed of three units in Yakima and Kittitas counties and is mainly typical eastern slope timberland and grassy rangeland. In the extreme eastern section, there are chukar and bighorn sheep. Excellent elk hunting is found in semi-open areas while fine chukar hunting is found in the breaks along the Yakima River. Recreational opportunities for campers, hikers or fishermen.

20. The NISQUALLY DELTA (648 acres) is one of the few remaining unspoiled river deltas in Western America.



REGIONAL OFFICES

REGION ONE
 Spokane
 North 8702 Division Street
 Spokane, WA. 90218
 (509) 545-4082

REGION TWO
 Ephrata
 P.O. Box 1237
 1540 Alder Street N.W.
 Ephrata, WA. 98823
 (509) 754-4624

REGION THREE
 Yakima
 2802 Fruitvale Boulevard
 Yakima, WA. 98902
 (509) 575-2740

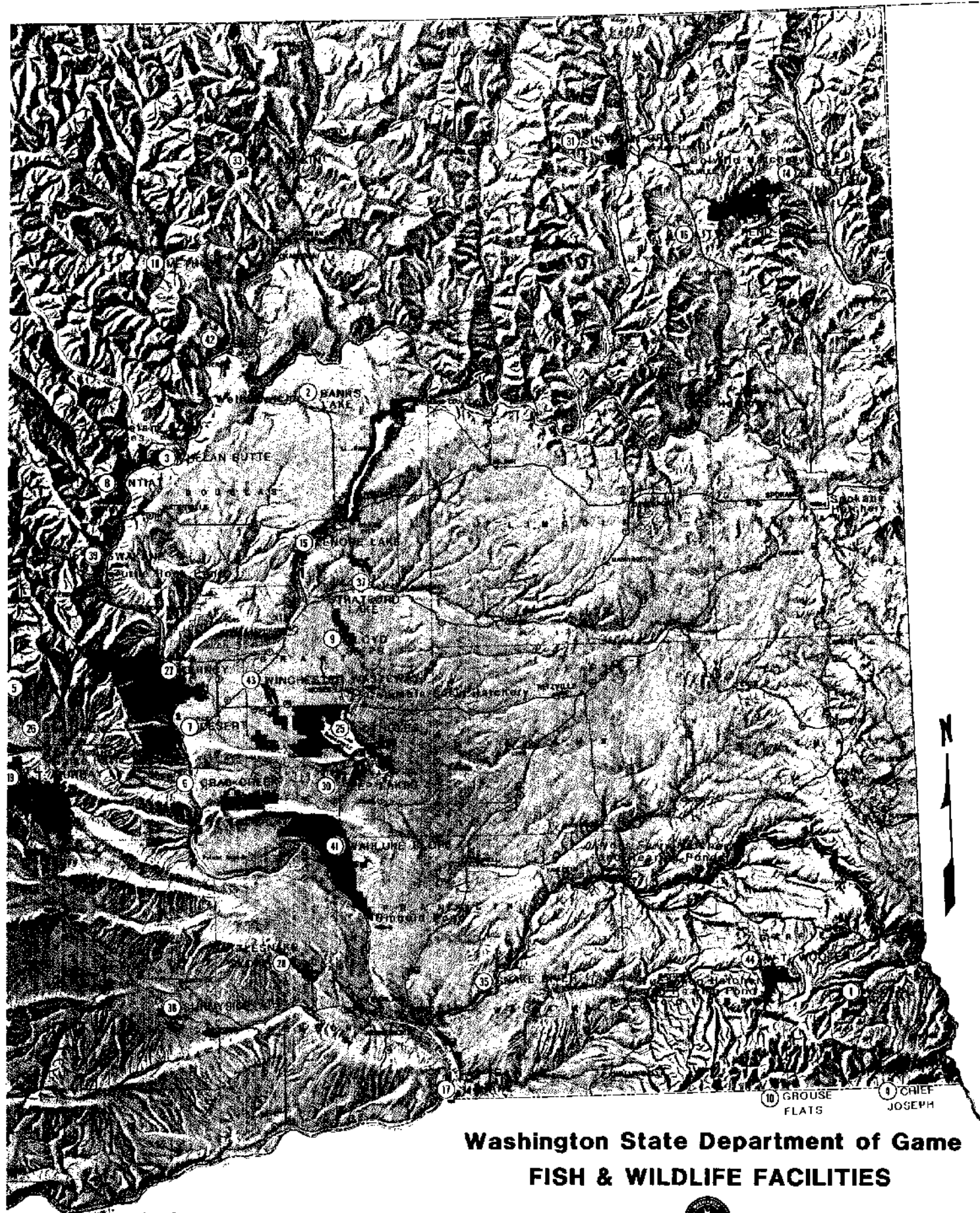
REGION FOUR
 Mill Creek
 16018 Mill Creek Boulevard
 Bothell, WA. 98012
 (206) 775-1311

REGION FIVE
 Vancouver
 5405 N.E. Hazel Dell
 Vancouver, WA. 98663
 (206) 696-6211

REGION SIX
 Aberdeen
 905 East Heron
 Aberdeen, WA. 98520
 (206) 533-9335

Vancouver Hatching and Hearing Pond

REC
 FIS
 FAC
 CAI



LEGEND

REGIONAL OFFICES

REARING FACILITIES

GAME FARMS



DEPARTMENT OF GAME

FEDERAL JURISDICTION

RESTRICTED AREA
RESERVED FEDERAL JURISDICTION



OLYMPIA HEADQUARTERS
600 North Capitol Way
Olympia, WA. 98504

Nisqually Delta lies west of Interstate 5 between Olympia and Tacoma. The majority of Game Department lands can be reached by boat, launched at the Luhr Public Access site. These marsh tidelands and extensive mud flats host all common western Washington waterfowl either as residents or winter visitors. Blacktailed deer, along with numerous fur-bearing mammals, are year-round residents. The Trowbridge shrew, mountain beaver, and all common Puget Sound bird species are also found here.

21. OAK CREEK (142,400 acres) includes the Wenas and Clemens Units as well as the Cowiche. The portions bordering national forest lands are mostly heavy ponderosa pine timber. This land includes much prime elk habitat, and good chukar territory is located along the Naches River. Famous nationwide is the elk winter feeding operation at the Oak Creek headquarters.

22. OAK HARBOR (579 acres) is a unit of the Skagit HMA noted for good waterfowl hunting. The area is managed under a cooperative agreement with the Whidbey Naval Station. Agricultural crops provide food and cover for various wildlife species including nongame animals. A pheasant release site draws heavy hunter participation.

23. The OLYMPIC (5,645 acres) consists of small key areas located within commercial tree farms in Wishkah Valley and the upper Wynoochee Valley, 15 miles north of Aberdeen.

It lies in the Olympic's foothills where numerous streams wind through lush rain forests. High protein grass and clovers have been developed and used in a mixed pattern

between brush and timber. This technique is used to encourage utilization by elk, blacktail deer and black bear.

Most wildlife typical of the Olympic Peninsula are found here.

24. OYHUT (682 acres) is one of the first resting stops for Dusky Canada geese on their southern fall migration.

Located at the southern end of Ocean Shores Peninsula, Oyhut features surf fishing for sea perch, bass and flounder, as well as hunting for geese, mallard, pintail, widgeon and greenwing teal.

Oyhut is unique as it is a "sink,"—a large saltwater intrusion with sand dunes on three sides and the North Jetty of Grays Harbor on the north. The area is a mecca for beachcombers because it is littered with driftwood, logs and shipwrecks.

25. POTHOLE (38,588 acres) is another popular waterfowl area west of Moses Lake in Grant County that also offers outstanding fishing for warmwater species. Fishermen trying the Potholes Reservoir find rainbow to six pounds.

26. QUILOMENE (45,143 acres) is part of the L.T. Murray in Kittitas County including most of the Whiskey Dick and Quilomene Creek drainages. It offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities including hiking, wildlife study, photography, fishing on Wanapum Lake and hunting or elk, deer, upland birds and waterfowl.

27. QUINCY (13,508 acres) is a vital link in the Columbia Basin's system of waterfowl resting areas. It features towering cliffs, sagebrush coulees and a network of 25 lakes directly across the Columbia River



from the Colockum HMA and just west of the Quincy-George Highway.

A wide variety of ducks, plus pheasant and chukar partridge are the most common game species. Excellent fishing for trout and bass is found in the larger lakes. Whistling swan make an annual spring stop-over, while great blue heron, red-tailed hawk, ring-billed gull, and canyon wren are common residents.

Quincy's cliffs rise to 600' and drop straight to the Columbia below or to intermediate benches from the main Columbia Basin plateau. The entire range of scabrock, sagebrush and bunch grass pastures is cut with

small coulees through which excess irrigation waters from adjacent farmlands fill this area's numerous lakes.

28. RATTLESNAKE SLOPE (3,662 acres) borders the southern end of AEC lands near Richland. There is quail hunting along the Yakima River's brushy shores, while chukar hunters can enjoy action on the dry, sloping uplands. A unit of the Sunnyside HMA.

29. SCATTER CREEK (1,269 acres), a mecca for pheasant hunters, field trialers and bird watchers, is located 18 miles south of Olympia, just west of Interstate 5.

Two segments, Case and Township, comprise Scatter Creek's rolling prairie grasslands and oak bottomlands. Both are open for hunting and fishing in season. Also included is the Black River HMA, a wetland area which borders the Black River.

Recreationists will find a wide variety of wildlife at Scatter Creek including pheasant, Hungarian partridge, blue and ruffed grouse, mink, otter, beaver, mallard and wood duck, blacktail deer, and occasional black bear, plus all common western Washington woodland and field birds.

30. SEEP LAKES (3,054 acres) is comprised of numerous small lakes formed from seepage from Potholes Reservoir. Adjacent to the Columbia Basin Wildlife Refuge, these lakes provide excellent warmwater fishing and good waterfowl habitat.

31. SHERMAN CREEK (7,508 acres) is nestled in the foothills between Lake Roosevelt and the Kettle Mountains, and has whitetail and mule deer, pheasant, and grouse as

top wildlife attractions. Rainbow and cutthroat are found in Sherman Creek, and golden and bald eagle, Merriam's turkey, coyote, bobcat and the Columbia ground squirrel are also residents.

32. SHILLAPOO-VANCOUVER LAKE (432 acres) is one of the most popular wildlife areas. It borders the Columbia River 12 miles north of Vancouver, directly opposite Caterpillar Island.

Shillapoo-Vancouver Lake management is oriented towards waterfowl and spinyray fishing. It is also used as a pheasant release site in fall. Terrain is river floodplain covered with heavy grass and brush. Thick patches of timber and willow are found along the Columbia River. A boat launch on the Columbia provides access for fishermen.

33. SINLAHEKIN (14,035 acres), three miles south of Loomis, is an important winter range for the entire Sinlahekin Valley mule deer herd. It is bordered by four mountains in the foothills of the eastern slopes of the Cascades. Sparsely-timbered grassland in these rolling foothills provide habitat for mule and whitetail deer, bighorn sheep, black bear, pheasant, quail, chukar and waterfowl.

Non-hunted species include pine squirrel, badger, porcupine, skunk, beaver, several types of swallow, and many other common eastern Washington songbirds. Also includes Driscoll Island unit, popular with waterfowl hunters.

34. SKAGIT (10,892 acres), west of Conway in Skagit county, is the most important waterfowl area in western Washington. Twenty-six species of ducks, snow, white-fronted and Canada geese, brant, and whis-

ting swan either nest or winter there.

Nearly 200 species of song birds, harbor seal, river otter, mink, black-tail deer, pheasant, band-tailed pigeon and dove have been identified. The Skagit's intertidal flats and shallow saltwater bays winter 20-35,000 snow geese annually. Trout, steelhead and salmon are taken in the adjacent Skagit River.

The Skagit's extensive tidal flats are accessible only at low tide, but its cattail saltmarsh, sedge-bullrush, wooded stream banks and farmlands can be reached at all times.

35. SNAKE RIVER (14,000 acres) is a cooperative venture, as a result of mitigation, between the Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Game. The steeply sloped area winds 130 miles along the Snake River and is being managed to replace habitat lost by dam construction. The River offers fishing for steelhead, smallmouth and largemouth bass, crappie, sunfish and perch. There is limited hunting for deer and upland birds. Several Corps and State parks and boat launches are available along the river.

36. SNOQUALMIE VALLEY (1,201 acres) is mostly typical Puget Sound river floodplain, including two miles of Snoqualmie River streambank offering access to outstanding steelhead and scarun cutthroat fishing. Stillwater Unit of the WRA offers pheasant releases in the Fall and is used for dog training and field trials in other months of the year. The area is prime habitat for duck, rabbit, snipe, mink, goldfinch and a host of other animals. Black-tail deer and bear are occasional visitors. The Snoqualmie Valley HMA

is in both King and Snohomish counties, with Ebey Island Unit noted for waterfowl hunting.

37. STRATFORD (6,020 acres) also includes Billy Clapp and Long Lake areas. It is managed primarily for waterfowl, providing outstanding goose hunting when up to 45,000 geese—mostly lesser Canada—use it as a rest stop during peak fall migration. Lined by high salt basalt cliffs, Stratford is approximately 12 miles east of Soap Lake, north of Highway 7.

38. SUNNYSIDE (7,604 acres) is 35 miles east of Yakima, or 45 miles west of Richland near the town of Mabton.

Sunnyside is known for waterfowl hunting, but is also an important pheasant release site. Trout and spinyray fishing is available on the wildlife area's two lakes. Sunnyside fronts on two miles of the Yakima River. A boat launch is provided for fishermen and bird hunters.

Sunnyside is characterized by typical, flat, south-central Washington river bottom land consisting of wild rose, cottonwood, willow, greasewood, and ryegrass. Excellent waterfowl rearing habitat and good hunting is provided on its potholes in the scabrock near Byron.

39. SWAKANE (11,199 acres) is located in a drainage east of the Columbia River just up from Wenatchee and may be reached off US Highway 97 or by forest roads. Steep timbered areas containing cougar, black bear, blue grouse and other animals characteristic of the eastern cascade slope give way to grassy areas and the basalt cliffs along the Columbia. Mule deer winter here, and chukars abound, while quail are found in the brushy draws.

Swakane is a unit of the Colockum HMA.

40. VOICE OF AMERICA (216 acres) is located northwest of Sequim at the entrance to Dungeness Spit National Wildlife Refuge. The site is owned by Clallam County Parks and managed jointly by the county and the Game Department. Planted grain fields attract waterfowl during the hunting season and provide pheasant cover. A camping area is located near the entrance of the federal refuge. This area is also a popular spot for horseback riding.

41. WAHLUKE SLOPE (57,839 acres) comprises arid upland chukar country along the backbone of the Saddle Mountains and seep lakes adjacent to the Columbia River. The area hosts thousands of waterfowl annually and is within U.S. Department of Energy lands. Hunters and fishermen should check Game Department Region 2 headquarters in Ephrata regarding special use restrictions.

42. WELLS (7,328 acres) is primarily managed for upland game birds and waterfowl and has a great diversity of habitat types and associated wildlife. Nearby Wells Pool (9,548 acres) is a major waterfowl and bald eagle wintering area and supports a variety of fish life. Wells is near Brewster and Bridgeport, and divided into six units managed jointly by the Game Department and P.U.D. #1 of Douglas county.

43. WINCHESTER WASTEWAY (1,919 acres), near Interstate 90 west of Moses Lake, provides numerous access points and boat launching facilities. Heavy use from migrating waterfowl and other wild-

life make this a favorite with both observers and hunters. For fishing, hunting or exploring, the miles of water, cattail marshes and swamps offer a variety of experiences.

44. W.T. WOOTEN (11,185 acres) is thirteen miles south of Dayton in the rugged Tucannon Valley of the Blue Mountains. It has sharp, steep ridges, talus slopes and broad-topped tablelands—generally timbered but with open south slopes covered by range grasses.

This spectacular mountain country has Rocky Mountain elk, white-tail and mule deer, bighorn sheep, black bear, cottontail and snowshoe rabbit, cougar, bobcat, ruffed and blue grouse, valley and mountain quail, chukar and Hungarian partridge, pheasant and dove. Eight lakes and Tucannon River provide summer and fall fishing for trout and salmon.

The Department of Game also manages natural areas of unique character that were secured for preservation in their natural state. Little or no development has taken place on these areas. They include Bald Eagle and Mary Leach areas in Skagit county, Nellie Corser area in Skamania county, Corson in Snohomish county and McCumber in Yakima county. Check with the regional Game Department office for information on public use restrictions.